



# State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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## **Quarterly Meeting: Thursday, January 27, 2011**

Hilton Madison Hotel 9 West Wilson Street,  
Madison, Wisconsin, USA 53703

### **Minutes**

**Members Present:** Karen Secor, John Meissner, Ben Barrett, Jon Baltmanis, Marge Liberski, Joanne Zimmerman, Jeff Fox, John Meissner, Charles Vanderplas

**Liaisons Present:** Vincent Fisher, Heather Bruemmer, Craig Wehner, Patti Glassburn for Marty Evanson, Barbara Belling

**Staff Present:** Amber Jensen, Molly Michels, Dan Johnson

**Others Present:** Jim Brown (Presenter), Amber Mullett, Steve Smart, Chany Yelly (interpreters), Noah Hershkowitz

Meeting called to order at 9:15am

The governor's office contacted Molly to get an update on council membership. Still working on getting Noah officially appointed. Claire Draeger resigned from the council. Governor's office will be replacing Coral, but unclear who that will be.

***Baltmanis/Fox motion to add a discussion of Senate Bill 8. Include under long term care committee. Approved.***

***Baltmanis/Fox motion to approve minutes from last meeting. Approved.***

### **2011 meeting dates:**

April 14<sup>th</sup>, Legislative Breakfast at the Madison Club. Jon Baltmanis will collect names, encourages members to recommend legislators who should be invited. Jon also asks that the members list their own legislative people.

July 28<sup>th</sup> Retreat to work on State plan, it is out of date on the website. Ben and Jeff have suggestion for a location up in their area. Jon Baltmanis suggested inviting the representative from the DNR

***Fox/Meissner motion to look into setting up July meeting at the Heartwood and move meeting to July 29<sup>th</sup> instead of the 28<sup>th</sup>.***

## **Old Business:**

### **Liaison updates:**

Craig Wehner/DVR: approximately 21,000 people active in the system, 16,000 have plans, 4,500 on wait list, activating around 800 people off the wait list each month. Rehab rate is at 64%, ahead of goal. Goal for the year is finding 2887 people jobs, as of today at 837 people have been employed, 32% for the federal fiscal year.

Heather Bruemmer: 7000 people a day are turning 65. Family Care audit will be done sooner than expected, had been scheduled for April. There will also be an MA audit.

Vincent Fisher/DOT: No updates. Question on the new wayside on 94, how far does a person have to not be able to walk before being able to get a hang tag. Dan Johnson believes it is 250 feet. John Meisner contacted someone who said the ADA does not state how far away the spots should be, only that the spots have to be the closest to the entrance.

*Fox/Baltmanis motion to get information from the Department of Transportation on state expenses for airports.*

Patti Glassburn for Marty Evanson: New secretary, Paul Jadin, he will transfer to new structure. No idea where housing will be located. Consolidated plan is open for public comment, starting Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, comments can be sent no later than 5pm February 7<sup>th</sup>, located on the Commerce website. 20000 persons are served by state homeless shelters, average length of stay is up. State shelter program just awarded \$1.5 million to agencies serving individuals. WI was 3<sup>rd</sup> most productive state in use of stimulus funds. Conference coming up in July, date savers will be sent out in March.

Barbara Belling: Ted Nichols is new commissioner. Deputy is Dan Swartzter. No major changes to this point.

Mike B ILCW: getting ready for next quarterly meeting, dealing with all of the transitions going on in state agencies at this time.

Report from Governor's Committee: Youth Leadership training will continue in the summer, about 30 individuals completed the training last year.

Survival Coalition Summit: Jeff and Dan sat in on the meeting last week. Survival Coalition is able to be proactive when new bills come up; things are moving so quickly, there is short amount of time to move on bills. Discussion on the Voter ID law.

### **Discussion of Legislative Strategies:**

*Fox/Baltmanis send a letter opposing the new voter id law. Ben Barrettt and Jon Baltmanis will write the letter. Discuss the impact on the disability and aging community, lack of hours, limits on transportation. Approved.*

*The council discussed Include suggestions on how to make it easier for persons with disabilities or who are elderly to get their id. Suggest DVM provide outreach to reach individuals who cannot get to an office.*

Baltmanis stated that legislation that affects the community is coming quickly and we are limited in the time allowed to respond. Survival coalition has developed a program to quicken the response. How can this council speed decisions between meetings? Executive committee could convene and make a decision for the council.

***Zimmerman/Vanderplas motion to amend the bylaws to allow internet polling of executive committee members to make decisions/pass motions between meetings. Approved.***

Council expressed concerns on hidden cost of the bill, such as transportation, paperwork....

**Update on Special Medical Vehicle (SMV) Transport in WI: *Jim Brown, President, SMV***

SMV Association started in 1998-1999. Members have a spectrum of vehicles, range from 2-100. SMVs were created by DHS for non-emergency medical transportation

See information handed out by Mr. Brown. Doctor's authorization needed to use SMV services. Door to door services, drivers can assist individuals using the services. Under Family Care, clients who were getting SMV services under Medicaid rates are being told they can get services at a lower cost. Safety issues have come up in the name of saving money. Difference between SMV and para-transit, SMV is state approved to provide service to Medicaid client. No SMV increase in rates for 20 years.

Transportation manager program supposed to start July 1<sup>st</sup>. The brokerage will hire an out of state company with a call center based in Atlanta, GA, they will have an office in Madison (probably 1 person). Does not include 6 counties (Dane and Milwaukee being 2 of them). Broker will cost between \$35-38 million, does not include 75-80% of Medicaid clients. Small providers will probably go out of business. Cost to the state will increase as time goes on. 10 years ago there were 350 providers, today there are around 150 due to Medicaid reimbursement rates going down. Legislative day coming up on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ben and Jeff will also be present.

Reasons coordination of trips to have provider give rides to multiple people when coming from/going to similar locations. Jim stated that they only receive reimbursement for point to point. Patients don't want to wait; doctors won't reschedule appointments to make them closer together.

Jim's agency is a non-profit. Advantage is Jim can write a grant, if awarded he can get vehicles at 20% of the cost.

With call center: Require 3 day notice for an appointment, check to see if approved, will tell you what is available.

**Medicaid Transportation Manager: *Greg DiMiceli, Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services***

Transportation in WI was a mess and needed coordination; there were gaps in service, people not getting to Medicaid appointments.

See materials from Mr. DiMiceli

Anyone on Medicaid has to have transportation so they can get to their appointment. WI provides transportation as an administrative benefit. Federal government reimburses at only 50%. Approximately 30% of other states use some sort of transportation management. Current issues with Medicaid

Transportation Structure:

Lack of providers around the state: 1.1 million people in WI on Medicaid, only approximately 200 providers in the state

Gaps in service

Lack of coordination and flexibility

Lack of Local Transportation Demand

## High Fuel and Insurance Costs

Current federal reimbursement rate of 50%

Common carrier services are those who do not have wheel chair accessibility

Transportation manager will start in WI on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Transportation manager will have to provide services to individuals all around the state. Does not include emergency medical vehicles. Originally scheduled to start April 1<sup>st</sup>. Family Care, Nursing Homes, and 6 counties (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Washington, Ozaukee, and Waukesha) will not be covered under the transportation manager. No diminishing of services and could save \$20 million.

Strict grievance procedure with some recourse as to what can be done with a driver who treats individuals poorly.

Saving money by providing appropriate forms of transportation. Help people have access to volunteers vs use of high cost services.

Remove federal oversight, will not receive federal dollars. As long as there is Medicaid in the state of WI, there must be Medicaid transportation.

With transportation manager, will be switched from administrative benefit to a service benefit, enhancing reimbursement rate from 50% to 60%.

Will help current providers by eliminating some of the administrative burden. There will be a single point of contact for individuals needing to schedule a ride. Manager will work with existing networks (counties, volunteers, tribes).

Mechanism for providing service is changing, but policies are not changing.

Standard for pick-up is 10-15 min of the scheduled time

There will be a specific grievance tracking for on-time rides

The Council discussed the process for background checks on volunteers.

LogistiCare Solutions had the highest score in the technical area of the review, although not the lowest dollar amount. A complaint was submitted by another bidding vendor and there was a re-bid process.

LogistiCare resubmitted and had both the highest score and highest technical expertise.

The system will go live on July 1, 2011.

Charles Vandenplas discussed the Disabled American Veterans transportation program's expansion in to all 72 counties. The DAV brings veterans to and from their VA medical appointments.

## Long Term Care Committee Report:

Federal initiative re: complex rehabilitation technology. WCPD will be in support of the legislation.

***Motion to support the federal legislation on complex rehabilitation technology. Fox/Meissner—passed***

Health and Disability Advocates: HDA has a website to support advocacy efforts to reauthorize the MIG for 5 years. Advocates are working to get it into the president's budget and to get it introduced as a separate bill for reauthorization. Dan Johnson is working to develop one page papers on the MIG to promote reauthorization.

Medicaid Buy-In for retirement: meeting next week with health care access and accountability to address asset concerns that have been raised. Other MAPP issues... *(have Dan fill in the details here)*

## Housing Committee Report:

Visitability and lifespan living: 10 years spent on the planning and finally brought before the code committee. Someone from the Builders' Association objected and the proposal was tabled. Housing For All will approach the Home Builders' Association as a last ditch attempt. The group will look at other states for examples of strategies for changes to policy. Will use AARP report to select other communities to approach for advice. The focus will be on things that can be done on a local level.

January 19, 2011: International Code Council has updated accessibility standard including visitability standards.

Joanne suggested having Marty Evanson and others discuss transitional housing at the next meeting.

**Transportation Committee Report:**

Bus routes are being decreased in Green Bay which limits paratransit routes. An RTA would take three years to establish. Approximately 150 communities in the US are losing transportation funds every year. One of the largest expenditures for metropolitan police forces is responding to auto accidents.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

Silos between human services, public health and emergency preparedness.

**Legislative breakfast:**

Joanne will e-mail Gary Goeke to get a list of new legislators.

Members should send names of legislators to Jon Baltmanis.

Breakfast will be at the Madison Club.

There will be changes to the ADA, title 2, title 3. Someone from Great Lakes ADA should be invited to present at a future meeting. The definition of a person with a disability has been revised. Members are encouraged to look at the ADA website.

Molly will talk with the American Red Cross representative regarding presenting at the July meeting.

SB8: Family and Medical Leave Act changes. Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities would like to do a joint letter with WCPD.

***Ben will draft a letter opposing the legislation.***

Fox/Meissner: motion to adjourn the meeting—passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:37 PM.